

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 25. (CANCELED).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A buffer tube comprising of:
a plurality of individual optic fibers located within the buffer tube and arranged in a plurality of fiber optic bundles; and
a ~~detectable binder having an adjustable laylength wherein the detectable binder surrounds the~~ surrounding the fiber optic bundle, wherein:
the binder comprises a flexible material and a plurality of physically detectable features positioned within the flexible material and wherein the plurality of physically detectable features are detectable by an automated detection system during manufacture.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim-~~25~~ 26, wherein the binder is detectable due to a fluorescing element.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim-~~25~~ 26, wherein the binder is detectable due to a distinguishing color.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim-~~25~~ 26, wherein the binder is detectable due to a magnetic or metal strip.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The buffer tube of Claim-~~25~~ 26, wherein the binder is detectable due to ~~a~~-an identifiable marking.

31. (NEW) A buffer tube comprising:
a plurality of individual optic fibers located within the buffer tube and arranged in a plurality of fiber optic bundles; and
a detectable binder having an adjustable laylength wherein the detectable binder surrounds the fiber optic bundle,
wherein the binder is detectable due to a fluorescing element.

32. (NEW) A buffer tube comprising:
a plurality of individual optic fibers located within the buffer tube and arranged in a plurality of fiber optic bundles; and
a detectable binder having an adjustable laylength wherein the detectable binder surrounds the fiber optic bundle,
wherein the binder is detectable due to a magnetic or metal strip.

33. (NEW) A buffer tube comprising:

a plurality of individual optic fibers located within the buffer tube and arranged in a plurality of fiber optic bundles; and

a detectable binder having an adjustable laylength wherein the detectable binder surrounds the fiber optic bundle,

wherein the binder is detectable due to an identifiable marking.